

Stanislaus County Office of Education February 2008 Math and Science Newsletter

Saturday Math Courses at CSUS

California State University at Stanislaus (CSUS) is offering a series of Saturday math courses for teachers. **The sessions are from 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. and include lunch.** Cost of the sessions is only \$ 30 dollars / session or \$ 300 for the entire series. Professional development units are also available at \$ 65 dollars per unit. You may also combine your attendance at the Saturday math series with attendance at math workshops sponsored and hosted by SCOE in order to total up your 15 hours. For more information or to sign up, visit their web site at <http://csm.p.ucop.edu/cmp/region6/calendar/index.php> Or contact Rita Glynn in the math grants department at CSUS (667 – 3780).

- Saturday, February 9th 2008 **Algebraic Thinking Using Recreational Math**
for teachers in grades K-12 with instructor Sam Dolber
- Saturday, February 16th 2008 **“Repeat as Required” – Visualizing Chaos Using Graphing Calculators** for teachers in grades 6-12 with instructor Bix Beeman
- Saturday, March 1st, 2008 **Math for English Learners (9:00 – 11:30)** with instructor Elmano Costa **and Numeration System and Algebraic Thinking (12:30 – 3:00)** with instructor Natalia Moore for teachers in grades 4-8

No Child Left Behind in Algebra conference

Sponsored by the California Math Council (CMC), this annual conference is one of the finest in the country. It is located in Monterey at the Embassy Suites Hotel, adjacent to beautiful Monterey bay. **The conference is scheduled for March 7 – 8, 2008** and is unique in that it is a Workshop style conference. Friday evening will feature **keynote speaker Greg Tang**. On Saturday, participants will attend grade span workshops. The grade spans will be K-1, grades 2-3, grades 4-5, grades 6-8, and grades 8-12. Teachers in the grade spans will attend common workshops in the morning and afternoon with colleagues, so there is plenty of sharing of best practices. The **theme is algebraic thinking** and the registration cost is only \$ 140 dollars for the weekend. For additional information or to download an application, go to the CMC web site www.cmc-math.org You won't need a substitute to attend, since this is scheduled for the weekend. This is a premiere symposium with teacher leaders leading many of the breakout workshops. You are sure to be enthused and engaged in your own learning. Registration includes the Presidents reception Friday evening, the Saturday sessions, lunch, raffle, and a one year membership in CMC. This fills up very fast and last minute registrations may not be available, depending on space.

Stanislaus County Elementary Science Fair

Stanislaus County Office of Education is hosting a **county elementary science fair for grades K-8 the week of May 12 -16, 2008**. The science fair will be held at the Salida Regional Library, located off Highway 99 in Salida. The theme of the science fair is **“Inspire Curiosity”** and teachers are encouraged to interest their students in inquiry based science instruction. Any teacher who has a student project submitted to the SCOE science fair will have their name entered into a drawing for gift certificates to spend at NASCO for classroom supplies for science education. **Start planning your school science fair for the spring right now, and save the best student projects to enter into our county science fair.** All student projects will earn a ribbon, and the top student projects will earn a gold medal for science achievement. For additional information about the science fair, contact Rick Bartkowski, Director of Math and Science, at rbartkowski@stancoe.org or contact Tricia Dunlap, our science consultant, at tdunlap@stancoe.org

If you would like to look at the science fair guidelines, read a Q&A document about the science fair, or view a slide show of last year's fair, please visit our SCOE web site at www.stancoe.org

MAPS news (Modesto Area Partners in Science)

Mark your calendar for Friday, February 22nd, 2008 for an evening with Fire Ecologist Robin Wills. “**Fire Restoration**” is the topic, and will include an understanding of past fire regimes and contemporary landscapes. This rich discussion will include the history and ecological implications of wild land fires and innovative approaches to managing these difficult fire challenges. This is part of the free lecture series sponsored by the Modesto Area Partners in Science. The evening begins at 7:30 p.m. and will be held in Forum 110 on the Modesto Junior College East campus. For more information, visit their web site at <http://virtual.yosemite.cc.ca.us/MAPS/>

Math Adoption Toolkit training

Stanislaus County Office of Education is hosting a one day workshop on how to use the state designed math adoption toolkit to help you navigate the large number of state recommended math materials easily and objectively. This workshop will be held on **Friday, February 8th from 8:30 – 3:00 p.m.** in the Martin Petersen Event Center. This workshop is intended for members of a school or district textbook selection committee. Participants will learn how to use the toolkit and its components; they will apply the toolkit to a set of publisher materials; there will be time to develop the district lens (one part of the toolkit); and will practice a consensus building activity which can be used by the school or district at the end of the selection process prior to submitting recommendations for adoption to the local board. The cost of the **workshop is only \$ 25 dollars a person** and you may RSVP directly to our administrative assistant, Anna Marie Facha, to reserve your attendance at afacha@stancoe.org.

A+ for Energy Grants

What could you do with \$ 5000 or \$ 10,000 dollars for your classroom? BP’s California A+ for Energy Program is seeking to distribute 1.5 million dollars to California classrooms for innovative ways to implement energy education in the classroom. The **application deadline is March 7, 2008**. Winning grants will be announced by May 12th, 2008. You can view a list of the 2007 winning classrooms and projects at <http://www.aplusforenergy.com>. The application process is open to any K-12 classroom teacher. The grant may be used for equipment, supplies, travel, stipends, software, and / or services. The grant proposal is limited to only 5 pages, so this is not a lengthy process. I encourage you to review some of the 2007 winning California proposals for ideas and suggestions for your own school or classroom. **SCOE has an environmental education consultant who would be happy to assist you in ideas for writing this grant**, including suggestions for classroom presentations and professional development that she could help in implementing. Contact **Tricia Dunlap** here at the Stanislaus County Office of Education at 238-1314 or email her at tdunlap@stancoe.org. Tricia is an excellent resource and has helped to write many grants for environmental/ energy education in the classroom.

California Project WET (Water Education for Teachers)

The Turlock Irrigation District is sponsoring a **FREE Saturday workshop** for classroom teachers on the use of the Project WET resources. The workshop is scheduled for Saturday, March 8, 2008 from 9:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Turlock Irrigation District. Teachers in grades K-6 are encouraged to attend, as well as after school leaders. All participants will receive breakfast and lunch, make and take materials for their grade level, a Project WET curriculum resource binder, and are eligible for raffle prizes. To register, contact Mitzi Lucas at mlucas@tid.org or call her at 209 – 883 – 8213. **Registration deadline for this FREE workshop is February 22, 2008.**